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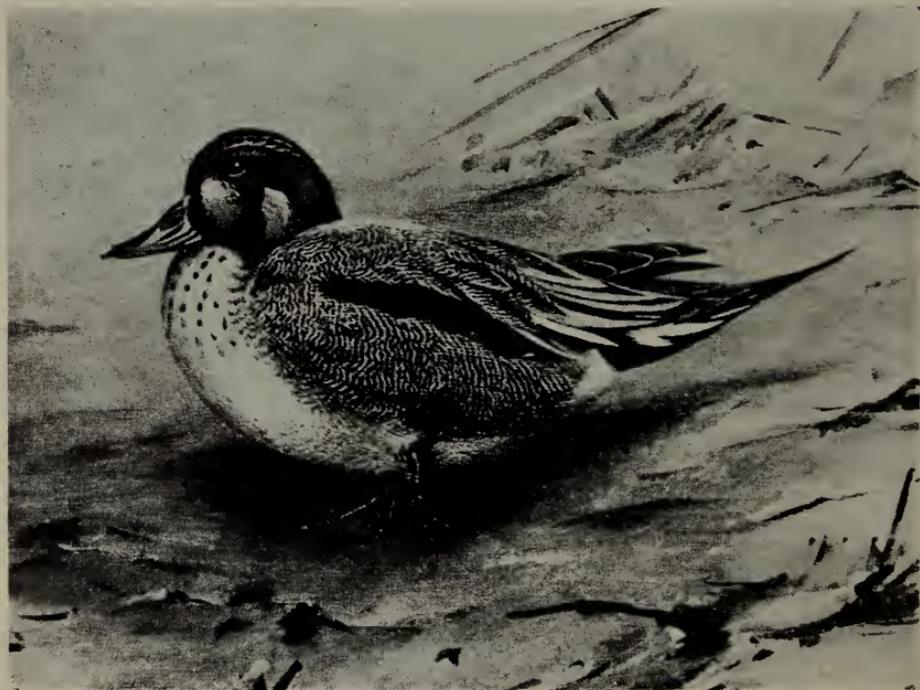
## Comments on a wild-shot Pintail x Teal Hybrid

by James M. Harrison and Jeffery G. Harrison

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*Introduction*:—Our attention has been drawn by Mr. Humayun Abdulali to the existence of a ♂ hybrid duck recorded by Glover (1938) as a Teal, *Anas crecca* Linnaeus × Baikal Teal, *Anas formosa* Georgi.

This specimen is in the British Museum (Natural History) collection, Reg. no. 1938. 2.12.1. It was obtained by Col. J. W. Thompson-Glover on 29th December, 1937, at Murgund Jheel, Srinagar, Kashmir. We have been given an opportunity of examining this specimen through the kindness of Mr. J. D. Macdonald, formerly in charge of the Bird Room, British Museum (Natural History), London.

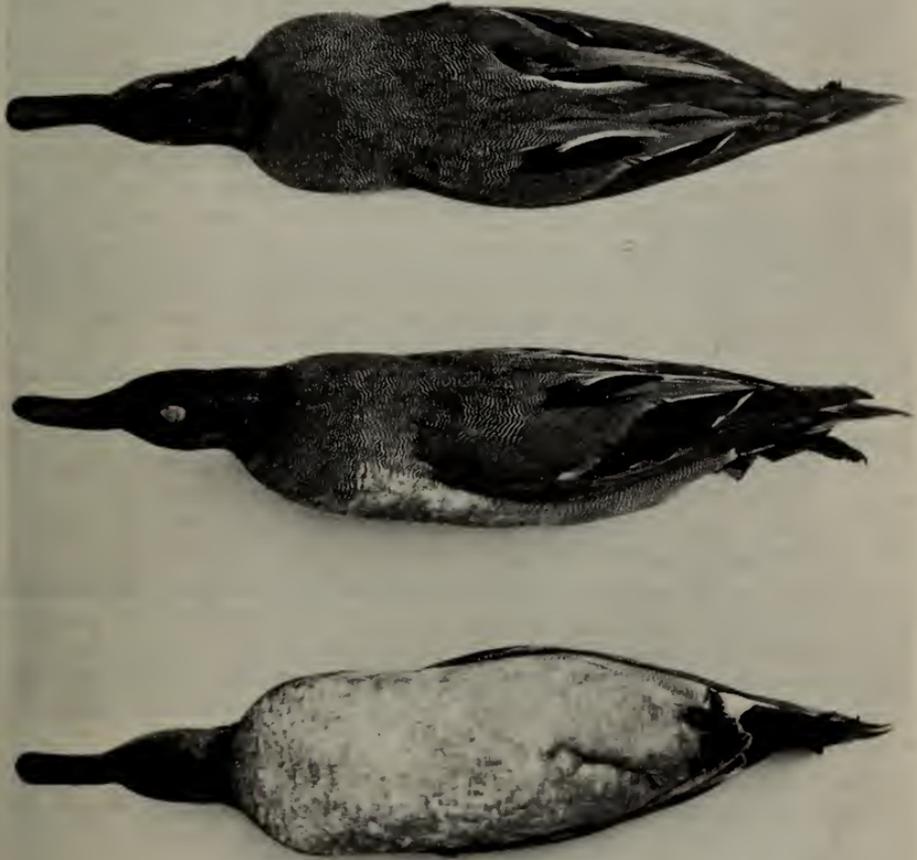


Pintail × Teal, Nile Delta, reproduced from *Nicoll's Birds of Egypt*.

In our opinion the parentage involved is, in fact, Pintail, *Anas acuta* Linnaeus × Teal, *A. c. crecca*.

Our reason for this opinion is that the overall picture is of a strict intermediate between these two species. This is shown by:—

(a) *the head and neck*: the crown is dark chocolate brown, not quite uniform, as there are some dark sepia centres as in Pintail. Over the nape the colour becomes lighter and brighter chestnut, with some elongation of the feathers at the nape, as in the drake Teal. There are marked post-ocular green stripes



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Pintail × Teal, Kashmir

which meet at the back of the neck as a dark green stripe, whereas in the Baikal Teal the white collar is continued to some extent on to the back of the neck. This is unlikely to have been totally suppressed, were this latter species involved in the hybrid.

The cheeks are intermediate in colour between the chocolate of the Pintail and the chestnut of the Teal. There is minimal bimaculation. This may well have been a factor which led to the determination of the Baikal Teal as one

parent involved, but we have already demonstrated that this feature can be seen in many hybrids in which neither parent is normally bimaculated.

Undoubtedly the very extensive black throat patch in the hybrid must have influenced the determination to include the Baikal Teal. However, Kuroda (1937) illustrates the wide variation of the black chin patch in drake Teal which, although not as extensive in this specimen, can be almost absent or very pronounced. In actual fact, Kuroda (*loc. cit.*) gives an extreme measurement for this feature of 36mm. in one specimen in his series. The measurement of the black chin patch in the present specimen is as follows:—length 40 mm. with a maximum width of 26 mm. The length was measured from the point of junction of the black feathers of the patch and the proximal end of the mandible and the width at about the mid-point. The length was taken without including the pointed tip on the base of the intermandibular membrane, nor the extension of the patch, which runs into the blackish collar.

Since there is little else in the morphology of the bird to suggest *A. formosa* ancestry, and the significance of the extensive black patch is obviously open to other interpretations, in view of Kuroda's findings, so we hold the view that *A. formosa* can be excluded from having any share in the parentage.

(b) *Upperparts*: The lower neck and mantle are finely vermiculated grey and white, extending to the rump and show no resemblance to the Baikal Teal.

A close examination of the innermost long tertials shows a similar pattern to that of the Pintail, but includes a medial white stripe as seen in both species. In the Baikal Teal this feather has a moderately broad pale lateral chestnut border. The longest of the tertials are clearly intermediate, being predominantly grey, as in the Teal, but also showing a thin black shaft stripe which is patently derived from Pintail. The upper tail coverts are intermediate between Pintail and Teal and the central pair are elongated to form a well marked 'pin' of 14 mm. in length beyond the longest tail feathers; these are dark grey in colour.

(c) *Underparts*: these are basically white, although the tips are yellowish (presumably peat staining). The lower neck and breast show slight obscured spotting as in many Teal.

Flanks are finely vermiculated grey and white and there is a slight yellowish border on either side, embracing the root of the tail. The tail coverts are intermediate between the two species.

(d) *Wings*: basically the wing pattern resembles Teal, with uniform grey wing-coverts and a bright metallic green speculum, with a broad bright chestnut anterior border, and a narrow whitish posterior border. The under surface of the wings clearly resembles that of the two parents.

(e) *Measurements*: (in mm.)

♂ <i>Anas acuta</i> (weight 1064g)	♂ <i>Hybrid</i> (weight 581g)	♂ <i>A. crecca</i> (weight 338g)
W=254-287	233 (chord)	175-192
Culmen=48-59	44	34-38
Tarsus=39-44	32	27-30
Tail=172-209	93	62-72
(after Delacour, 1956, 131)		(after Delacour, 1956, 99)

## DISCUSSION

In the original reference, Glover (1938) describes shooting an unusual duck on the Mirgund Reserve in the main Kashmir Valley: it was flying with

Teal and weighed 1lb. 4oz. when shot. The specimen was skinned by Mr. F. Ludlow, and was sent to the British Museum (Natural History) for identification, where it was determined as a cross between a Teal, *Anas crecca* and a Baikal Teal, *A. formosa*. No details were given as to the characters which led to this decision.

This specimen should be compared with the plate (Pl. XX) in *Nicoll's Birds of Egypt* (Meinertzhagen, 1930), of a wild-shot hybrid Pintail  $\times$  Teal from Ghatta, in the Egyptian delta, on 26th January, 1923, and now in the Giza Zoological Museum. This, incidentally, was also originally identified as a hybrid Teal  $\times$  Baikal Teal. The late Lord Rothschild, however, expressed the opinion that it was more likely to be a cross between a Pintail and Teal.

The specimen from Kashmir agrees fundamentally with the coloured illustration (by the late George Lodge) referred to above. The slight differences are firstly that the facial bimaculation in the Egyptian specimen is complete and the cheek patches are paler. This pattern was no doubt responsible for the misidentification as to the Baikal Teal parentage. At that time of course it had not been realised that this basic bimaculated facial pattern does occur in other hybrids of the Anatidae. Secondly, the breast spotting is more defined in the Egyptian specimen. This degree of variation in the bimaculated facial pattern has been shown to occur in hybrids between the Wigeon, *A. penelope* and the Shoveler, *A. clypeata* (Harrison, 1964).

#### SUMMARY

A hybrid duck from Kashmir has been re-examined and its parentage is considered to be Pintail  $\times$  Teal, rather than Teal  $\times$  Baikal Teal as originally recorded. This view is supported by comparison with a plate showing a Pintail  $\times$  Teal from Egypt.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We acknowledge with gratitude the loan of the Kashmir hybrid specimen by Mr. J. D. Macdonald, formerly in charge of the Bird Room, British Museum (Natural History).

For the photographs our thanks are due to Dr. Pamela Harrison, and for permission to reproduce the plate from *Nicoll's Birds of Egypt*, we acknowledge our gratitude to Dr. Theresa Clay.

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## The original name of the bustard *Eupodotis afra*

by R. K. Brooke and R. J. Dowsett

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The Black Knorhaan or Bustard of the arid parts of southern Africa is called *Eupodotis afra* in the two latest Lists (White, 1965; Clancey, 1965). Both